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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 000717

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STATE FOR NEA/IR - M. SPRING AND CA/OCS - B. MARWAHA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/15/2019

TAGS: PHUM PREL PINR PROP PTER CASC IR CA

SUBJECT: CANADA READY TO HELP ON MISSING/DETAINED AMCITS IN IRAN

REF: STATE 94757

Classified By: PolMinCouns Scott Bellard, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Canadian Foreign Minister Cannon and other senior officials will be seeking meetings with Iranian counterparts on the margins of the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York to raise the issue of detained Canadians in Iran, according to Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Gulf and Maghreb Deputy Director Gallit Dobner.

She predicted that FM Cannon would likely also agree to raise the cases of the six detained or missing American citizens at that time, which her bureau would request formally in the wake of our demarche. Dobner added that Cannon had raised the plight of Western detainees with the Iranian head of delegation at the August 24 - 25 Friends of Pakistan meeting in Istanbul. Canada continues to approach "other non-Western governments that have good relations with Iran" to seek their good offices as well, according to Dobner.

¶2. (C) Dobner also noted the close cooperation between the U.S. and Canada in regard to a possible joint press statement by FM Cannon and Secretary Clinton expressing concern over the continued detention of Canadian and U.S. nationals in Iran. She added that the Canadian Embassy in Washington has already provided a draft text to NEA/IR as a basis for discussion.

¶3. (C) While eager to cooperate on the issue of detained American and Canadian citizens in Iran, Canada was cognizant of the need for prudence in timing the release of the joint statement, Dobner noted. She underscored that the Canadian Embassy in Tehran had picked up rumors of a possible release of detainees in honor of Eid, and indicated that Canada might wish to make a public statement only if this does not happen.

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